

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0420855711

Address: 17 East Franklin Street  
Current Name: Jennings Building

Block: 566 Lot: 18 Lot size: 33 ft. x 97 ft.  
Height: 3 Materials: Brick and stone  
Condition: Good Owner: Jennings Insurance Ag'y., Inc.  
Use: Commercial Accessible: Yes, restricted  
Designation: Liber/Folio: RHB 2887/170



Historic Name: Florists Exchange Building  
Date: 1906  
Architect/Builder:  
Style (if appropriate): Classical Revival

**Description:** The rectangular building has a three bay facade on Franklin Street and a five bay elevation on St. Paul Place. The Franklin Street elevation has a dominant center bay with a stone framed entrance. Square pilasters support a paneled frieze and cornice with a peaked parapet. Above this is a stone-framed slate panel with vertical lettering in the name "Jennings". Above the panel in a blind arch is a blank medallion with wreath and floral embellishment. The windows of the first floor on both elevations are modern bronzed aluminum casements with flat arches and stone sills. The flemish bond exterior has brick quoins and stone belt courses above and below the second floor. The St. Paul elevation has blind arched window frames with stone keys and spring stones. The end bays have stone lintels over the windows and a wreathed medallion in the arch tympanum. The first floor on this elevation has two secondary entrances. Above the top belt course is a plain parapet with stone coping. Evidence of a continuous sign or frieze, now removed, is visible on both elevations.

**Significance:**

Area: architecture

Level: local

The Florists Exchange operated as a wholesale distribution center for florists and thus was essentially a warehouse building. The exterior treatment, however, was in a Classical Revival style that echoed the elaborate facades of the shops on Charles Street. The site was vacant in the 1890's and this survey discovered no evidence of a previous building at that location. About 7 years after the construction of the Florists Exchange, it was sold to the S.S. Pennock Meehan Company of Philadelphia which continued the floral distribution business until the early 1940's.

Sources: DR. 12-16-05; DR 12-6-13; land records.  
Surveyor and Date: Janet Davis, May 1985

Baltimore Metrocenter Survey  
Cathedral Hill Area  
Florists Exchange Building,  
17 East Franklin Street  
B-2085



Florists Exchange Building      B-2085  
17 East Franklin Street  
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Janet Davis  
Date: July 1984  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Northeast corner view  
1/2



Florists Exchange Building B-2085  
17 East Franklin Street  
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Janet Davis  
Date: July 1984  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
North elevation  
2/2

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Jennings Building				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 17 East Franklin Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY:		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<b>OWNERSHIP</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Public        Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<b>STATUS</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Jennings Insurance Agency, Inc.				
STREET AND NUMBER: 17 East Mulberry Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Records Office, Room 601, Baltimore City Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: Calvert and Fayette Streets				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21202
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): RHB 2887-170				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1975 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Calvert St.				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore, Md. 21202		STATE:		



7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div>(Check One)</div> <div>(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>This masonry building, laid in Flemish bond, is two and one half stories high, and three bays wide. In the middle bay of the first story is a double glass door with a one piece grilled transom overhead. Flanking the doorway are two flat pilasters of stone which support an entablature with triglyphs at each end. Above this is a cornice surmounted by a pediment-like block. On either outer side of the pilasters is a one-piece window set in a flat-arched recess (the recess on the right has been partially bricked up. These windows have straight bond lintels and stone sills. Above the windows is a belt course which is interrupted by the cornice over the entrance.</p> <p>The middle bay of the second story is occupied by a keystone, stilted, round-arched recess which now contains a sign bearing the name of the company which occupies the building. Above the flat-arched, stone-framed area which contains the sign is a decorative stepped pyramid of stone; in it is a roundel between two crossed palmettes. Flanking this center bay arrangement are two plate glass windows (one on each side) with braced stone sills and straight bond frames and lintels. There are two small one-piece windows above these second story windows, followed by a belt course and a parapet which conceals the building's flat roof.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☒ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1920-25

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Refer to 421 North Charles

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

32'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x97'

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Joseph Potts, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION:

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &  
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

DATE

24 Nov. 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:

Room 900

CITY OR TOWN:

26 South Calvert St.  
Baltimore, Md. 21202

STATE

## 12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

REVISIONS

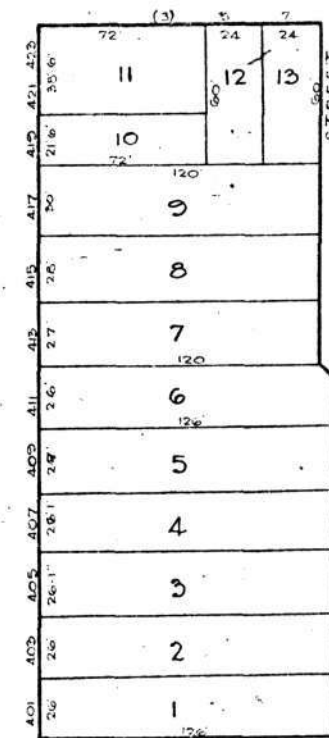
Lots 15, 16, 17 Cons'd P, App 0836 C 3b 3437  
 Lot 16 Under Plan City Sec. Lot, C. S. 11-29  
 Lot 3031 STREET NAME CORR. PER L&R 8851B

E. FRANKLIN

ST.

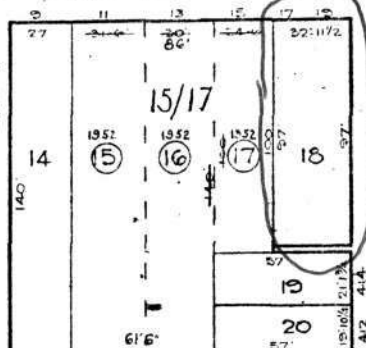
ST.

N. CHARLES



STREET ALLEY

LOVEGROVE



SCRABBLE ALLEY

PLACE

ST. PAUL

E. MULBERRY

ST.

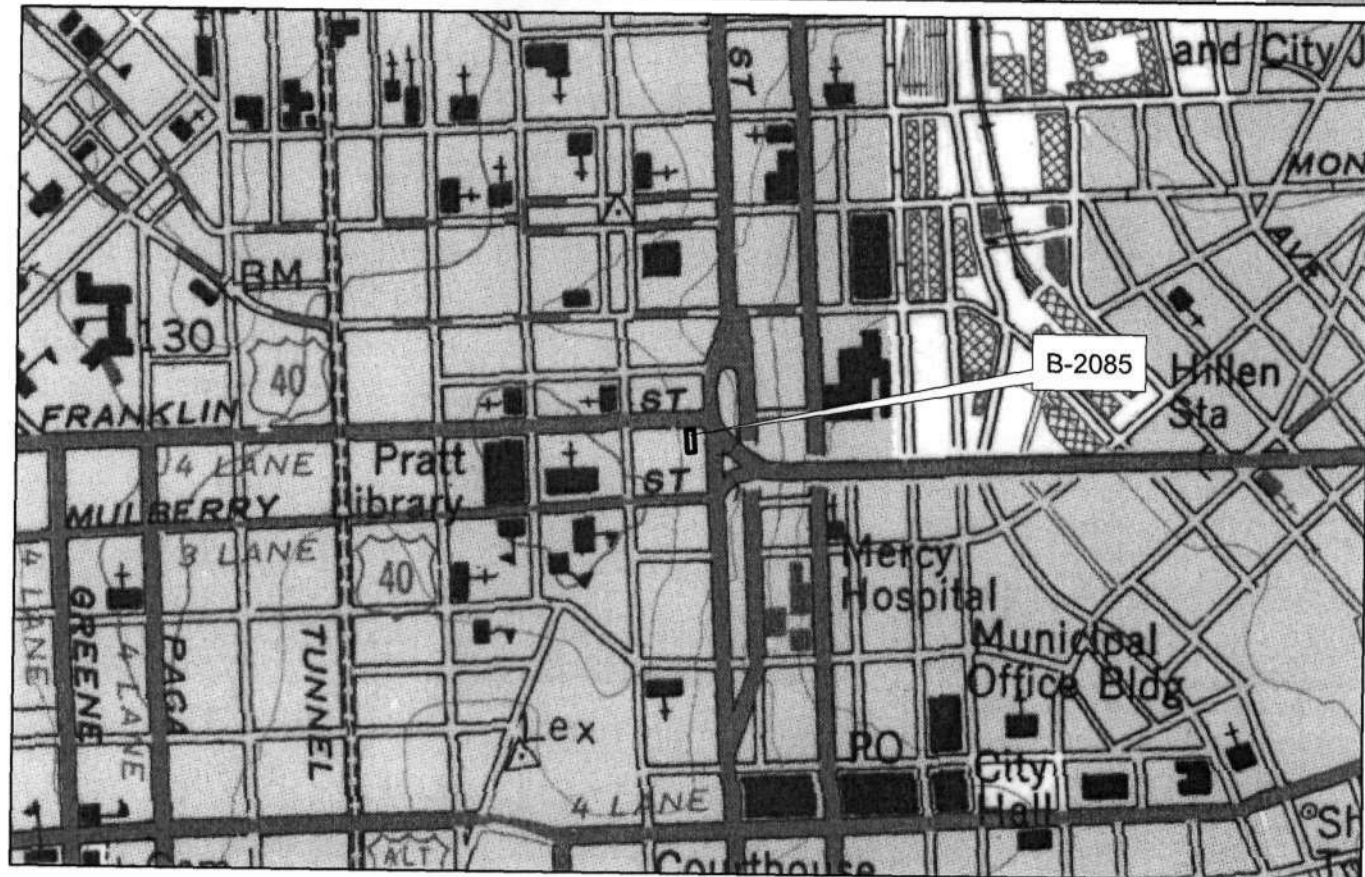
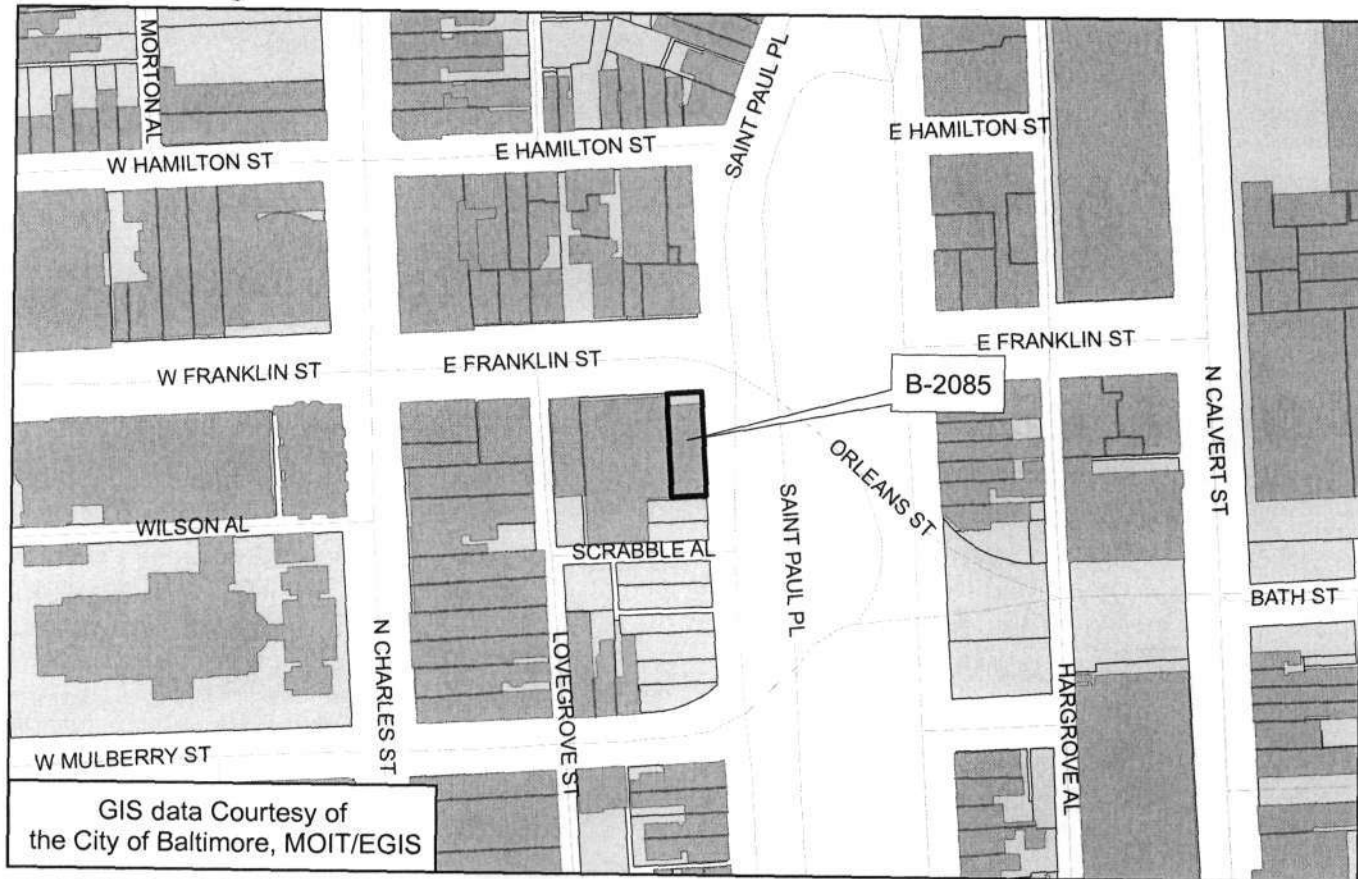
TRACED BY MODRHEAD

LETTERED BY W. M. LEE

CHECKED BY W. M. LEE

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 BUREAU OF PLANS & SURVEYS  
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION  
 WARD 4 SECTION 1  
 BLOCK 500

B-2085  
Florists Exchange Building, Jennings Building  
17 East Franklin Street  
Block 0566 Lot 018  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad





17 E. Franklin

CB Thompson  
Sept. 1975

BIK566  
Neg 10

B-2085